



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Public Safety

Office of the Commissioner
Joseph A. Masters

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September 15, 2013

The Honorable Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve under you, and to have had the opportunity to lead the Department of Public Safety (DPS) these past five years. I am respectfully submitting my resignation as commissioner effective October 15.

Being part of your efforts to ensure safe communities and create prosperity for Alaska has been one of my greatest professional accomplishments. I continue to support your efforts to provide the resources our communities and agencies need for the services Alaskans expect from their government.

My focus when taking this position was to stabilize the department and determine what was needed to affect the change necessary to ensure DPS could meet its mission and obligations to Alaskans. I have taken inventory of the accomplishments we've made at DPS, enabled by your support and that of the Legislature, and I can say that Alaskans are well served, and are safer now more than ever before.

Our highways are better protected and we are seeing the lowest numbers of fatalities in history.

Rural communities are better served and protected as we rejuvenated the VPSO program and built stronger partnerships with communities and regional non-profits. We put VPSOs in communities that have no law enforcement and added new Trooper posts in areas that desperately needed them. DPS now has much stronger and more effective dialog with tribes.

Information sharing to promote faster and more effective investigations and records management is now a reality with the Alaska Records Management System, along with the fusion of information between state, local and federal partners at the Alaska Information Analysis Center.

Scientific analysis of evidence to support all law enforcement agencies in complex case investigations in a timely manner is possible with the new Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory - the place where science and truth enable justice.

Families are strengthened and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are supported through the most collaborative and focused effort of prevention, offender accountability, and services the state has ever seen.

Public faith is steadily being restored that DPS is responsive and accountable to the public, and that Alaskans have an effective mechanism to bring concerns and accolades to our attention through the Office of Professional Standards.

This is not to say the job is done. Improving safety in our communities and improving service is a constant and evolving task. We have made great strides in state-tribal communications, but still there is opportunity to work with and partner more with tribes to deliver services. We have a strong start to developing a leadership role in embracing technology to improve information sharing and emergency communications. I see the necessity for DPS to continue its focus in this area for the safety of the public.

As populations in Trooper service areas increase, so does public demand for services and the corresponding increase in Trooper response. I hope the Legislature continues to support DPS in these efforts to ensure adequate resources are available to meet these needs.

I am proud of the men and women in this department and their continued professional commitment to service.

During my tenure, the state lost several brave and honorable members of the law enforcement community. These fallen officers are a constant reminder to me of the selfless acts of public service and the integrity and compassion behind those who wear the badge and uniform. It has been an honor to serve alongside the brave men and women of DPS.

As I leave public service, I intend to return to my career in the private sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Masters", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph A. Masters
Commissioner